

PSALMS: DIARIES OF GODLY OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS

Psalm One Hundred And Twenty-Nine - Using God's Record Of Righteous Aid To Face Current Oppressors (Psalm 129:1-8)

I. Introduction

- A. Though we may experience it **repeatedly**, it is never **easy** to experience unjust oppression. It always hurts, always confuses and always tempts one to give up and run away or dig in and fight back unjustly.
- B. Psalm 129 is a study in **facing** unjust oppressors in the **present** that takes advantage of recalling God's **past** and **righteous** deliverances for hope and direction for **now** (as follows):

II. Using God's Record Of Righteous Aid To Face Current Oppressors, Psalm 129:1-8.

- A. This pilgrim psalm starts its focus on recalling how God has rightly delivered Israel from past oppressors:
 1. The psalmist called upon Israel **NOW** to consider something, Psalm 129:1b.
 2. The fact he wished Israel to consider was the fact that She had faced (a) **great** oppression (b) **for a long time**, ever since her days of national **origin**, Ps. 129:1. The **greatness** of the oppression is emphasized in the **repetition** of the phrase, "They have greatly oppressed me from my youth", Ps. 129:1 with 2a.
 3. The reason the author asked Israel to use that **past** oppression so Israel could **NOW appreciate** the that Her oppressors **never quite succeeded** in ruining the nation, Ps. 129:2b.
 4. The **reason** Israel was never quite trounced by her oppressors who for a **long** time treated her with **enormous** troubles (being plowed on the back with whips that raise plowed welts, v. 3) was that Jahweh in **RIGHTEOUSNESS** released Israel from the oppressors, Ps. 129:4.
- B. Thus, **building** on this **precedent** of divine deliverance, the psalmist calls for divine intervention for **current** oppressions that Israel might be facing, Ps. 129:5-8:
 1. Since Israel's Righteous Jahweh had so faithfully intervened in Israel's history to rescue her from great oppressors, the Psalmist **confidently** called for all who hate Israel **now** to be turned back in shame, 5.
 2. Since Israel's Righteous Jahweh had so faithfully intervened in Israel's history to rescue her from great oppressors, the Psalmist called for Israel's **current** oppressors to have a relatively short-lived tenure of oppressing Israel like rooftop grass that quickly dries out and dies after spring rains, Ps. 129:6.
 3. Since Israel's Righteous Jahweh had so faithfully intervened in Israel's history to rescue her from great oppressors, the Psalmist called for Israel's **current** oppressors to have their efforts become fruitless, 7.
 - a. The initial figure of **oppressive** volunteer grass growing on a dirt-encrusted Palestine home's roof that quickly dies when the spring rains stop is used by the Psalmist to provide hope for a poor harvest of gain in the efforts of the oppressors to ruin Israel, Ps. 129:6 with 129:7.
 - b. Thus, the Psalmist wishes the oppressor's oppressions to be fruitless, Ps. 129:7.
 4. Since Israel's Righteous Jahweh had so faithfully intervened in Israel's history to rescue her from great oppressors, the Psalmist called for Israel's **current** oppressors **not** to be **honored** in their oppression as would a hay farmer in his efforts to achieve success through his efforts of personal gain, Ps. 129:8.
 - a. Staying with the figure of the rooftop's **oppressive** volunteer grass, the psalmist likens this short-lived grass to his hope of the futile loss of gain that Israel's oppressors would experience, 6-8.
 - b. Thus, as **bothersome** rooftop grass wilts and produces no crop, the Psalmist hopes that the efforts of Israel's oppressors would be as fruitless as though a farmer were raising a field of such rooftop hay, Ps. 129:8! In other words, he wants their oppression to **backfire** and cause dishonor!

Lesson: Using the figure of the **REPEATED** seasonal problem of grass growing on the dirt-encrusted flat rooftops in Palestine that dies out with the seasonal changes, the Psalmist recalls that God has similarly **OFTEN** checked the great oppressions of Israel's oppressors since the nation's origin. Accordingly, he hopes in God's righteous **SUSTAINED** future and present deliverances like he would hope in the demise of **CURRENT** bothersome rooftop grasses that might be growing on his rooftop!

Application: God is (1) **RIGHTEOUS**, (2) **FAITHFUL** and (3) **ABLE** to rescue His people from great, repeated, unjust oppressors since He has **OFTEN REPEATED** such deliverances in the **PAST**. Thus, we must **USE** our **RECOLLECTIONS** of such deliverances for hope in oppressions **TODAY!**